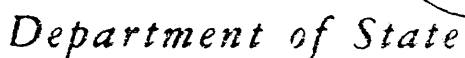


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TELEGRAM

AN: D800014-0468

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ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-14 ADS-00 SR-04 HA-05
AID-05 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN 47

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/8/86 (KING, BARRINGTON) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, EAID, UNHCR, WFP, AF, PK
SUBJECT: STATUS OF UNHCR PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN
PAKISTAN

REF: GENEVA 259 AND PESHAWAR 275 (NOTAL)

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. UNHCR REP UTKAN CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JAN 8 JUST A FEW HOURS AFTER RECEIVING TELEPHONE CALL FROM GENEVA INFORMING HIM THAT CHIPMAN WOULD BE ARRIVING IN ISLAMABAD IN 24 HOURS. FROM UTKAN'S SUBSEQUENT DESCRIPTION OF STATE OF AFGHAN REFUGEE PROGRAM, UNHCR HAS EVERY REASON TO BE CONCERNED.

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3. UTKAN HAS JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO NORTH WEST

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FRONTIER PROVINCE AND HE ESTIMATES THAT NUMBER OF REFUGEES HAS ALREADY REACHED 500,000. OFFICIAL FIGURES (NOW NEARING 400,000) DO NOT FULLY REFLECT REAL SITUATION SINCE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WHO ARE AWAITING REGISTRATION HAVE NOT BEEN COUNTED. THERE ARE LONG DELAYS IN REGISTRATION CAUSED BY DISTANCES INVOLVED AND BY CAREFUL GOP SCREENING OF REFUGEES FOR SECURITY REASONS. UTKAN BELIEVES NUMBER

OF REFUGEES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW WITH POTENTIAL FOR MONUMENTAL TRAGEDY IF SOVIET INVASION PUSHES MASSES OF REFUGEES TOWARDS NORTHERN PASSES INTO PAKISTAN. PASSES WILL BE SNOWED IN WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AND ATTEMPTS TO CROSS OVER COULD RESULT IN LARGE LOSS OF LIFE. IN ANY CASE, UTKAN SAID, HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN SOON SWELL TO 700,000.

4. DISTRIBUTION UNDER UNHCR PROGRAM HAS STILL NOT BEGUN. FIRST FOUR MILLION HANDED OVER TO GOP LAST WEEK BUT BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS HAVE BEEN GREAT. MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IS BEING OVER ZEALOUS IN ESTABLISHING SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CORRUPTION IN REFUGEE PROGRAM FBARING INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF REGIME IF THIS OCCURS. CASH PAYMENTS TO REFUGEES BY GOP WHICH SUSPENDED SOME MONTHS AGO WILL REPORTEDLY BE REINSTATED IN NEXT WEEK OR TWO. AT PRESENT TIME REFUGEES RECEIVING TENTS AND BLANKETS THROUGH VOLUNTEER AGENCIES AND GOOD PROVIDED BY GOP AND PARTLY FINANCED BY KUWAIT. DIRECT PROVISION OF FOOD BY KUWAIT CONSISTING OF SARDINES AND TOMATO PASTE REMAINS UNUSED, FILLING TWO WAREHOUSES IN PESHAWAR, SINCE REFUGEES WILL EAT NEITHER PRODUCT.

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5. ACCORDING TO UTKAN, GOP HAS ALSO BEEN FAR TOO METICULOUS IN PREPARING ESTIMATES OF REAL COSTS OF PROGRAM BASED ON NEW REFUGEE TOTALS. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM US AS SOON AS REVISED GOP ESTIMATE IS RECEIVED. (UTKAN SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED TO SAY FIGURES ARE \$26.4 MILLION FOR NEXT NINE MONTHS FOR 500,000 REFUGEES AND \$36 MILLION FOR 700,000 REFUGEES. BOTH TOTALS INCLUDE \$10 MILLION ALREADY APPROPRIATED BY UNHCR ON BASIS OF EARLIER ESTIMATE THAT REFUGEE POPULATION LESS THAN 200,000.)

6. REFUGEES IN NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE BECOMING
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INCREASINGLY RESTIVE, UTKAN SAID, AND PRACTICALLY MOBBED HIS CAR WHEN HE VISITED, DEMANDING TO KNOW WHAT IS BEING DONE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT WITH LOCAL POPULATION IF REFUGEES DO NOT SOON RECEIVE MORE ASSISTANCE. THERE IS REASON FOR EVEN MORE SERIOUS CONCERN IN BALUCHISTAN WHICH SIMPLY CANNOT ABSORB LARGE REFUGEE POPULATION. TEN THOUSAND MORE HAVE ARRIVED THERE RECENTLY. UTKAN WILL BRING IN CHIPMAN TO TALK WITH US ON JANUARY 9 BEFORE THEY VISIT REFUGEE AREAS.

7. UTKAN STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED PROMISED UNHCR PERSONNEL, IS TRYING TO OPERATE PROGRAM, REPORT, AND VISIT FRONTIER WITH ONLY ONE HELPER.

8. COMMENT: EVEN UTKAN'S BLEAK PORTRAYAL OF REFUGEE SITUATION MAY BE UNDERSTATED. NO ONE AT THIS POINT CAN BE CERTAIN HOW MANY ADDITIONAL REFUGEES WILL POUR INTO PAKISTAN FOLLOWING SOVIET INVASION. AS UNHCR REP RIGHTLY SAYS, THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR MONUMENTAL HUMAN TRAGEDY.
HUMMEL

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